

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919-661-5880**

Exterior Area for Assisted Rescue Separation Requirement

Code: 2012 Building Code
Section: 1007.7

Date: September 12, 2014

Question:

If an exterior area for assisted rescue is located more than 10 feet from the exterior surface of an exterior wall is the exterior wall required to be fire-resistant rated and opening protection provided per Section 1007.7?

Answer:

No, but if the exterior area for assisted rescue is 10 feet or less from the building then the protection noted in Section 1007.7 will apply.

Section 1007.7 indicates that if you had a rated wall separating the exterior area of assisted rescue from the building the walls that are more than 10 feet horizontally from where the rated wall is required can be unrated. That same logic can be applied for such areas of assisted rescue that are located more than 10 feet from the building. The code expects a distance of 10 feet to be outside of a possible fire plume from the building and a safe distance from the heat generated by such a plume. This is also supported by other sections of code (i.e. 1027.5.2 & 3105) where 10 feet is used as a safe horizontal distance to allow unrated walls.

Keywords:

ARA, area of rescue assistance